

Forestland **Planning Resource Management Systems**

Successful resource management on forestland is the correct application of a combination of practices that will meet the needs of the total forestland ecosystem – soil, water, air, plant and animal resources plus H (human or the objectives of the landuser).

In planning a forestland Resource Management System (RMS), forest vegetative management is the foundation on which the RMS is built. Forest Stand Improvement (666) is the essential practice for forest management. A forest management plan that addresses and meets the needs of the soil, water, air, plants and animals is essential to the formulation of a RMS on forestland.

All other practices planned on forestland are either to facilitate the application of the essential practice, Forest Stand Improvement (666), and are described as DESIRABLE practices or the needed practices to accelerate changes in the ecosystem and are identified as NEEDED practices. These NEEDED practices are planned when needed to address site specific resource problems to meet the criteria for managing the soil, water, air, plants and animals.

A RMS for forestland includes a combination of practices that are:

1. ESSENTIAL – Forest Stand Improvement (666) is the management practice that is essential to the successful management of forestland and is always planned. The exception is when forestland is maintained only for the protection of a watershed. Then no essential practice exists.
2. NEEDED – These practices are planned when necessary to cause or accelerate changes in the forest ecosystem that is not adequately addressed with Forest Stand Improvement practice alone and are required to address site-specific Resource problems.
3. DESIRABLE – Practices that facilitate or enhance the essential practice (Forest Stand Improvement – 666)

A RMS is developed by selecting a combination of the ESSENTIAL, plus the DESIRABLE and/or NEEDED practices whose combined effects will meet the criteria established for each resource (soil, water, air, plant and animal) and the objectives of the landuser. When multiple landuse is an objective, the needs of each use and the effects of each practice must be considered in the selection and application design of each practice to ensure compatibility. The following is a list of practices applicable to Forestland:

ESSENTIAL PRACTICES –

Forest Stand Improvement (666)

NEEDED PRACTICES –

Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)

Firebreak (394)

Prescribed Burning (338)

Forest Site Preparation (490)

Riparian Forest Buffer (391)

Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645)

Critical Area Planting (342)

Use Exclusion (472)

Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management (644)

DESIRABLE PRACTICES –

Access Roads (560)

Forest Harvest Trails and Landings (655) (forest management roads and designated skid trails to facilitate harvesting, if trees are harvested then the practice becomes essential.)